



TO HONOR

ALBERT DE FRAITES

MASTER SERGEANT, U. S. AIR FORCE

1906 - 1991

DeFraites was born in the British West Indies. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in about 1926 and by 1942 was a master sergeant and a skilled aircraft maintenance supervisor in the 69th Squadron, 58th Fighter Group. His outstanding skill and his leadership ability caused him to be recommended for commissioning in 1943. DeFraites remained with this squadron through its deployment into combat in the Southwest Pacific, providing guidance and training to many young mechanics. He repeatedly declined a commission and chose to stay with his men. DeFraites served for 30 years including a tour with the 8th Bomb Squadron in combat in Korea during which he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for saving the life of two airmen. He died at the Old Soldier's Home in 1991.

By The Fifth Air Force Memorial Foundation